

James A. Yoder

James A. Yoder has a PhD in Oceanography, and currently serves as the Director of NSF's Division of Ocean Sciences. In this position he has responsibilities for plans and actions in support of ocean sciences activities in the National Science Foundation; consulting with other agencies as necessary to ensure interagency coordination of activities in ocean sciences; and coordinating ocean sciences research activities within the Directorate for Geosciences and other Directorates and Offices of the Foundation. The Division Director ensures that NSF responsibilities to interagency agreements concerned with ocean sciences are met, and that NSF participates appropriately in the National Ocean Partnership Program. Dr. Yoder is also responsible for preparing environmental assessments for Division activities, including documents prepared as required under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and Endangered Species Act.

Dr. Yoder graduated from DePauw University in 1970 and received an M.S. (1974) and Ph.D. (1978) from the Graduate School of Oceanography (GSO), University of Rhode Island. He joined the staff of the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography in 1978 and was promoted to Professor in 1989. From 1986-1988, Dr. Yoder was a Visiting Senior Scientist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, assigned as a Program Manager in the Ocean Branch at NASA Headquarters. He joined the GSO faculty in 1989 and served as Associate Dean of Oceanography from 1992-1998 with responsibility for undergraduate and graduate academic programs in oceanography. During that period, he spent another year at NASA Headquarters in the Mission to Planet Earth Office and then served as Interim Dean of GSO from 2000-2001.

Dr. Yoder is currently on an Intergovernmental Personal Agreement assignment to NSF as Director of the Division of Ocean Sciences. The Division supports basic research at U.S. academic institutions in biological, chemical and physical oceanography and marine geology and geophysics. It oversees the U.S. contribution to the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP) and supports ocean technology development, dedicated ocean educational activities, large shipboard equipment, as well as the acquisition and operation of research vessels and submersibles.

Dr. Yoder was trained as a phytoplankton ecologist, and his current research uses satellite and aircraft remote sensing to study regional to large-scale relations between biological and physical processes. He has published more than 75 scientific and popular manuscripts on phytoplankton ecology and ocean remote sensing. He has served on many national and international committees and as President of The Oceanography Society.